

1896

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE TO AMERICA



“You took us as we were
Made us what we are
Our future is in your hands”

A Significant Task

NEAR EAST RELIEF'S task is worth while. Ordinary arithmetic will not suffice to calculate its significance. To repair the physical waste of war is relatively easy. To restore the soul of a people is a far more important task. This is what Near East Relief is doing. The number of lives saved is not the most important item. The big thing is the faith, hope and courage it has kept alive in the people.

Near East Relief asks continued support on the basis of its past record, the existing need and the future promise of its work.

A great emergency efficiently met.

Hundreds of thousands of lives saved.

Economical administration of relief funds.

Children absolutely dependent on our care.

If we withdraw, they die—or worse.

A constructive program that means a real contribution to permanent peace in the Near East.

Historical Statement

Near East Relief was organized in October 1915 as the American Committee of Armenian and Syrian Relief. Its purpose was to relieve the suffering caused by the deportation of Armenians. Its scope was enlarged and its name changed to Near East Relief in August, 1919, when it was incorporated by Congress—America's official relief organization to meet the needs of the people in Bible Lands. It is humanitarian and strictly non-sectarian.

Three High Spots

There have been three high spots in the history of Near East Relief: first, the original crisis that brought it into existence. Near East Relief fed hundreds of thousands daily. Over a million lives were saved. The great majority of these are today self-supporting and independent. *But some tens of thousands of orphans remained in the care of Near East Relief.*

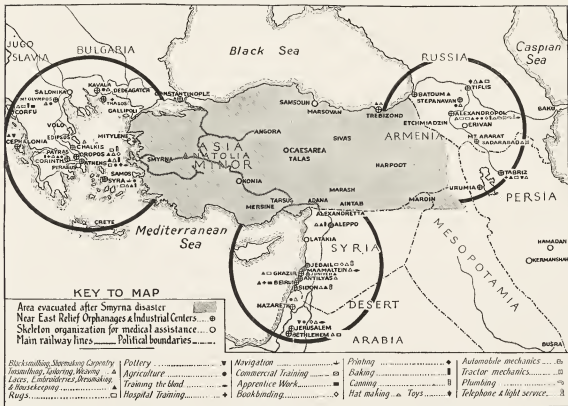
Second, the burning of Smyrna, September, 1922. Near East Relief's prompt use of its stores of orphanage food saved the lives of hundreds of thousands of homeless sufferers. *Over ten thousand new orphans.*

Third, the expulsion of all non-Moslems from Turkey, November, 1922. Twenty-two thousand orphans in orphanages in Turkey had to be moved to safety and cared for elsewhere. This was done without the loss of a single child's life. In the meantime, Near East Relief met this emergency by caring for the hundreds of thousands of Greek and Armenian refugees who crowded the Mediterranean and Black Sea Ports from Turkey. Medical work was established and the people fed until the camps were evacuated in August, 1923. This did not mean the solution of the refugee problem—only its transfer to Greece. *Again thousands of new orphans for Near East Relief.*

Present Situation

Tens of thousands of orphans are now in the care of Near East Relief. They have no other help. Near East Relief cannot withdraw until these children are both old enough and sufficiently trained for self-support.

The Present Areas of Near East Relief Activities



This map shows the areas in which Near East Relief now operates. Before the Smyrna disaster there were twenty-two thousand orphans in the shaded area. All of these are now safe in the Caucasus and Persia, in Greece, Syria and Palestine. Near East Relief aims to prepare every child for self-support. The map shows the type of industrial training given at each industrial center.

Near East Relief's Program Overseas

American Supervision

206 American workers administer the work at 52 orphanage centers. Among them are a number of doctors and nurses. More than a score of Americans have laid down their lives in this service.

Number of Orphans

In spite of the fact that during the past year the organization placed more than 11,000 children in self-support or with friends, there are still in the care of Near East Relief approximately 60,000 children.

Over against this must be placed the fact that in the refugee camps of Northern Syria and of Greece there are not less than 100,000 destitute children for whom no adequate provision has yet been made.

A Recurrent Need

Yesterday's breakfast will do a child no good tomorrow. Near East Relief must provide for each day's needs until the children are old enough to care for themselves. As 61% of those now in the orphanages are under 12, it is clear that they will need our help for a number of years to come.

Medical Care

Near East Relief maintains 73 hospitals and clinics, giving over 228,000 treatments a month.

Educational and Industrial Program

The children need more than food, clothes, shelter and medical care. Near East Relief has a well-balanced program of study, work and play, aiming to develop every side of the child's life. Every child receives a common school education and also a practical vocational training.

These children are capable of leadership. They come from the right strata and there are enough of them to make a real impact on the life of their respective countries. They will go out, not only as individuals, but in groups, each group the nucleus of higher ideals and more progressive methods.

Economical Administration

Economical administration of the actual orphanage work has been characteristic of the organization from the beginning. Taking into account the free rent, free land and free transportation given Near East Relief, it can be truthfully said that for every dollar given in America more than a dollar's worth of actual relief work is done in the Near East.

Endorsement By Impartial Observers

Fred B. Smith, world traveler and prominent New York layman, says: "Near East Relief is as nearly 100% efficient as is possible in any human organization."

G. W. Gerwig, Secretary of the Board of Education, Pittsburgh, Pa., says: "I am of the profound conviction that no service which America can render the world today is equal to the humanitarian and educational work that Near East Relief is doing."

Robert E. Speer says: "Near East Relief has lifted the name of America to a unique place in the respect and attention of the people of all races in Turkey, Persia and Russia."